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41-43 Discovering Desegregation at Armstrong: Records and Papers 1966-1982

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Reference Code (2.1): 41-43

Name and Location of Repository (2.2): Special Collections, Lane Library, Georgia Southern Univ. Armstrong Campus, Savannah, GA, 31419

Title (2.3): Discovering Desegregation at Armstrong: Records and Papers

Date(s) (2.4): Inclusive dates: 1966-1982
Bulk dates: 1974-1978

Extent (2.5): Three boxes equaling 2.5 cubic feet and containing a total of 34 folders. Folder 17 is split into 17 A and 17 B, the same for folder 28 and folder 29 is divided into A-D which makes for numbered folders up to 29 but a total of 34 folders. Material includes correspondence, memorandums, official documents, newspapers, pamphlets, minutes, statistics, court documents and various versions of the desegregation plan.

Name of Creator(s) (2.6): Office of the President, Ashmore

Scope and Content (3.1): The Discovering Desegregation at Armstrong collection is material related to the process of desegregation at Armstrong State College from 1966 to 1982. Savannah State College, the historically African-American college of Savannah, is mentioned in tandem with ASC. The records and papers include correspondence, memorandums, official documents, newspapers, pamphlets, minutes, court documents, statistics and various versions of the desegregation plan. ASC and SSC of Savannah, Georgia are most prevalent but other University System of Georgia schools are mentioned as well. Influential people include Henry Ashmore, David Tatel, George Simpson and Peter Holmes.

Conditions Governing Access (4.1): Open

Language and Scripts of Material (4.5): English

Administrative/Biographical History (2.7): Records accumulated by the Office of the President, Ashmore and transferred to the University Archives upon his retirement. The Civil Rights movement of the 1950's and 60's prompted the desegregation schools in the U.S. The records indicate that ASC and SSC of Savannah, Georgia spent over a decade revising and considering a course of action in order to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Related Archival Materials (6.3): Box 40-Desegregation- HEW (1970-1979)
Box 600-Records of the Dean of Joint Graduate Program, 1973-1985, Joseph Adams
Box 751-President, May 1978-May 1979, John Oppen

Access Points:

African-American Universities and Colleges
Armstrong State University—History

Ashmore, Henry Ludlow
Civil Rights—Georgia—Savannah
Race Relations—Georgia
Savannah State University—History
School Integration—Georgia—Savannah—History—Sources
Segregation in Higher Education—Georgia

System of Arrangement (3.2): One series arranged chronologically from 1966-1982. Briefly described below.

- Folder 1: HEW Correspondence (1966-73)
 - Letters between Ashmore and Simpson-multiple programs/finances discussed
- Folder 2: Civil Rights (1969-75)
 - Letters between Ashmore and Dewey Dodd (Chief of education branch for OCR) compliance reports
- Folder 3: Blacks: Institutional Reaction (1970-73)
 - Letters to Ashmore from professors and students pertaining to African-Americans on ASC campus
- Folder 4: Desegregation Info (1972-73)
 - Joint Graduate program for SSC and ASC/Correspondence about the desegregation PLAN (Simpson & Holmes)
- Folder 5: Plan for further Integration (!) of University system of GA (June 11, 1973)
- Folder 6: Desegregation Correspondence (1974)
 - Ashmore, Holmes and Simpson
- Folder 7: Propst/Ashmore Memo (May 6, 1974) et.al
 - Revision of PLAN/Duplicate Programs @ ASC & SSC.
- Folder 8: Duplication committee report (no date, 1974)
 - Assessment of duplicate programs between ASC & SSC.
- Folder 9: The PLAN (June 1, 1974) Parts A & B
 - Desegregation Plan-discussion of image change for colleges
- Folder 10: The PLAN (Feb 13, 1974)
- Folder 11: Progress Report ASC/SSC – HEW Compliance letter (Dec 31, 1974)
 - Reports on minority enrollment and duplicate programs
- Folder 12: Description of ASC/SSC Academic Division (June 1974)
 - Inventory of program offerings and curriculum for each
- Folder 13: Visiting committee (July 17-18, 1975) Sub-committee on non-resident Four-Year Colleges of University system.
 - Progress for desegregation assessment
- Folder 14: Chronicles of Higher education 1974
 - News articles
- Folder 15: Duplication and Recruitment Information (1974-75)
 - Minority recruitment reports/duplication reports
- Folder 16: OCR response to the Plan (Aug 4 1975)
 - Ashmore memos about desegregation progress, 1977 OCR letter to several states including Georgia stating Plan does not comply with Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Folder 17 A-B: The Plan 1977(Sept)

- Revised Plan from above. Letter from Simpson to Tatel regarding the revised Plan.
- Folder 18: US District Court Documents (August 1977)
 - Amended criteria for acceptable desegregation plans. Adams vs. Califano court documents. Tatel letters.
- Folder 19: Clarification of September 1977 PLAN (December 1977)
 - Special attention to ASC and SSC. Letters between school presidents.
- Folder 20: Clarification of September 1977 PLAN (March 1978)
 - Overall timeline of the Plan. Letters to Tatel from Simpson.
- Folder 21: Fourth Segment of the PLAN (Oct 1978)
- Folder 22: Draft Plan "Never Seriously Considered (August 14, 1978)
 - Copy of a Plan with notes on it.
- Folder 23: Minutes from Work study groups on desegregation (1978)
 - Work study groups for desegregation options.
- Folder 24: Savannah Community Liaison Committee and work study groups (1978)
 - Large folder, multiple memos and minutes about desegregation options, letters from students at SSC and ASC, public hearing minutes.
- Folder 25: Plan for SSC Desegregation (June 26, 1978)
 - Concise Plan
- Folder 26: Progress report on the implementation of the PLAN (August 15 1979)
 - Vernon Crawford letter to Tatel introducing first progress report, statistics included.
- Folder 27: Statistical data for liaison committee
 - Survey of students, questionnaire, teacher/student race statistics.
- Folder 28 A-B: Liaison committee and work study groups (May, June 1978)
 - Statements from persons about desegregation options.
- Folder 29 A-D: Final Report from Savannah Community Liaison Committee to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia on the desegregation of Armstrong State College and Savannah State College. (July 5, 1978)

Desegregation in other Record Groups:

President--Ashmore Papers

Desegregation -- HEW(1970-1979) Box 40

Memos, reports, minutes of meetings, notes on meetings and reports concerning cooperative programs, the HEW Duplication Committee and the recruitment study committee. The Committees were created in response to directives from the Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare in 1973. Correspondence, memos, and reports concerning compliance with desegregation directives: merger, program swap and reports of the Savannah Area Community Liaison Committee. Enrollment data for ASC and the Joint Graduate Program (see Box 5 and below.) Correspondence, reports, plans and statistics concerning affirmative action.

Graduate Program, Joint (1961 - 1976) Box 5

Correspondence with the Chancellor and University System, administrators, faculty, students and

community concerning Armstrong State College and Savannah State College cooperation generally and the Schools' Joint Graduate Program. Also includes planning documents, minutes of meetings, publications, annual reports. The First Bulletin (catalog) of the Program is in file 13. The Joint Graduate Program with Savannah State College existed from Fall 1971-1978. It was intended to help desegregate the two colleges, in response to directives from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (see Desegregation-HEW (box 40) above.) James Eaton (of SSC) and Joseph Adams alternated as Deans of the Joint Graduate Program which offered Masters of Education Degrees in: Elementary Education and various secondary education fields, and a Masters of Business Administration. Files 20-22 deal with efforts for a cooperative undergraduate Social Work program.

President Burnett Records

A significant set of records addresses desegregation, plans for merger with Savannah State and regional collaboration among local Universities. For records concerning plans for merger with Savannah State Univ. circa 1982-1983, see Boxes [52.3](#) (files 20-23), [52.4](#) and [56.1](#)(files 18-21.)

Box 52.4 Merger Plans, 1982-1983

- 1.ASC/GSC/SSC (1981-1982)
- 2.ASC/SSC Merger Plans (1982-1983)
- 3.Citizen's Committee Report (1982)
- 4.Desegregation Addendum (1979-1983)
- 5.Regent's Consultant's Report (1982-1983)
- 6.Friedman Plan (1983)
- 7.Engineering Plans 1983, 1986, 1993-1994

1/6 Subject files, 1987-1998, Regional University Collaboration

Box 59.1 (files 3-5 moved from Box 58.2 files 21-23.)

- 1.Burnett's Chronology/History of Regional University (1988-1989)
- 2.Merger Talks (March-May, 1988)
- 3.Merger ASC/SSC May 1988
- 4.Merger ASC/SSC May 1988 contd.
- 5.Merger ASC/SSC May 1988
- 6.Merger, 1988 Consolidation Study
- 7.Plan for a Multi-Campus Regional University in South Georgia Sept. 6, 1988
- 8.Desegregation (1989-1995)
- 9.Lee Parks (1998?)